



# NEWS

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## **US ARMY, UK JOINING TECHNOLOGY FORCES FOR FUTURE BATTLEFIELD**

ADELPHI, MD - Success in future warfare will greatly depend on an army's capability to quickly gather, interpret and share battlefield information. This is even more critical in coalition operations which require coordinated actions between forces from different nations that may use different technology and doctrine.

Realizing the need for cooperation to solve the technology challenges involved in conducting coalition operations in network centric warfare, the governments of the United States and the United Kingdom are forming an International Technology Alliance (ITA) in Network and Information Sciences.

As the organizations implementing the Alliance, the US Army Research Laboratory (ARL) and the UK Ministry of Defence (MoD) will conduct two "Opportunity Conferences" for industry and academia, one in Vienna, Virginia on April 1, 2005, and the other in London, April 7, 2005. The conferences are to prepare industry and academia consortia from both nations to develop proposals to participate in the ITA program. The intention is to form a consortium of government, industry and university scientists and engineers from both nations to develop the advances in technology that will link battlefield capabilities of networks of sensors, command and control, and soldiers during tactical coalition operations. This coupling of networks, communications and information sciences, integrated into a coherent whole, is a critical part of network-centric warfare.

The ITA program will be funded for a total of up to \$70 million over five years. Options could extend that up to an additional five years and additional funding of \$70 million or more.

Fundamental research will be sought in network theory, security across a system of systems, sensor information processing and delivery, and distributed coalition planning and decision making. The ITA also provides for transitioning research results for military and commercial use.

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## **2-2-2 – US Army, UK**

The ITA is modeled on ARL's Collaborative Technology Alliances (CTA) as well as MoD's Defence Technology Centres. The highly successful CTAs use cooperative agreements which permit the Army, academia, industry, and other government agencies to share resources, personnel and results for joint research projects.

Defence Technology Centres are formal collaborative arrangements between industry and academic experts in a particular technology, defined and funded jointly by participants and the MoD.

The ITA program is limited to US and UK entities. The consortium must have both US and UK membership with a strong emphasis on collaboration among the members. Potential consortium leads must have a significant research and development capability in both the US and UK. Organizations interested in participating should register their interest on the ITA website.

The US/UK International Technology Alliance conference website address is <http://www.usukita.com/>.

ARL, part of the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, is the Army's corporate laboratory for fundamental and applied research. ARL provides key technologies and analytical support as well as critical links between the scientific and military communities to help American soldiers in the battlefield. ARL has two major sites in Maryland, the Adelphi Laboratory Center, and Aberdeen Proving Ground. ARL also has facilities at White Sands Missile Range, NM, and shares facilities with NASA at two sites, NASA-Langley, Hampton, VA, and NASA-Glenn, Cleveland, OH. ARL's extramural basic research program is managed by its Army Research Office in Research Triangle Park, NC.

***Note: Funding for the research component of the ITA program is contained in Fiscal Year 2006 and beyond financial plans and is subject to Presidential, Congressional, Ministerial, Parliamentary and Departmental approval. No awards will be made until appropriated funds are available.***